

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Re-examination and favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following comments are respectfully requested.

Claims 19 - 36 are pending in the application. Currently, claims 19 - 20 and 22 - 26 stand rejected and claims 31 and 32 stand withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species.

By the present amendment, claims 19, 20, 22, 23, 33 and 36 have been amended.

In the office action dated October 31, 2011, the Examiner objected to the drawings. This objection is now moot in view of the amendment to claim 22. The Examiner is hereby requested to approve the drawings.

Further, in said office action, the Examiner rejected claims 23, 24, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is now moot in view of the amendments to claims 23 and 36. The examiner is requested to withdraw same.

Still further in said office action, the Examiner rejected claims 19 - 20 and 33 - 36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No.3,828,622 to Neff.¹ This rejection is traversed by the instant response.

In the instant application, the index value for the necessary movement of the retaining element in relation to the receiving element is obtained directly from the force signal (force sensor at the pinion respectively the gear) and not indirectly from the path signal at the underside of the toothed

¹ The office action refers to U.S. Patent No. 4,305,307 in the second line of the rejection; however, the remainder of the rejection is based on Neff. Thus, Applicants refer to Neff in the remarks.

rack. The latter is not able to compensate for tooth rack faults.

In Neff, there is no disclosure of measuring the actual preload movement directly from the force signal.

By the present amendment, claims 19, 20 and 33 have been amended to highlight this difference between the claims of the instant application and Neff. Support for the amendments to claims 19, 20, and 33 can be found in paragraph 0024 of the specification.

Claims 21 - 30 and 34 - 36 are allowable for the same reasons as their parent claims as well as on their own accord.

The instant application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe an additional amendment is needed to place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact Applicants' Attorney at the telephone number listed below.

A request for a two month extension of time is enclosed. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the two month extension of time fee in the amount of \$560.00 to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to said Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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